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OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB BULLETIN

February 25, 1950

SECRETARY JOHNSON REPORTED

PLANNING IMPORTANT SPEECH

FOR OPC DINNER NEXT WEEK

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COMMITTEE WARNS "ONLY FIVE DAYS TO MAKE RESERVATIONS"

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Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson may make a policy statement of world-wide importance before the Overseas Press Club's 11th Annual Dinner next week, The Bulletin has been reliably informed. Secretary Johnson, recent target of criticism from several congressmen and columnists for his emphasis on economy in the Department of Defense, is reported to be drafting a speech which will not only answer his critics but disclose new Departmental plans as well.

Second speaker at the dinner will be Senator Brien McMahon, Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy.

Word that the Secretary's address would be a significant contribution to American defense policy reached New York as the OPC's Dinner Committee rushed to conclusion final plans for the Club's gala banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Between 1,000 and 1,500 persons are expected to gather in the Grand Ballroom at 8 PM on Friday, March 3, according to LOUIS P. LOCHNER, Dinner Committee Chairman.

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FARLEY AND MET SOPRANO ACCEPT OPC INVITATIONS

Former Postmaster General James A. Farley and Miss Eleanor Steber, dramatic soprano of the Metropolitan Opera, are among the distinguished guests whose acceptance of OPC invitations to attend Friday's banquet were announced this week. Miss Steber has also agreed to sing several musical selections during the dinner.

(continued on Page 2)

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!

Only a few days remain before the OPC Annual Dinner March 3. To guarantee good seating arrangements, rush your reservations now to Miss Fanshawe at Dinner Headquarters, 136 East 64th Street, N.Y. Member (and one guest): \$9.50. Other guests: \$15. Boxes: \$20.

FARLEY AND MET SOPRANO -- continued from Page 1

Other special guests of the Club who will be present on the dais next week, in addition to those already reported, include Ralph A. Bunche, UN official; Bernard Baruch; and Sumner Pike, acting chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

DINNER TO BE TELEVISED,
BROADCAST ON NETWORK

Festivities at the OPC Annual Dinner on March 3 will be filmed for transmission over television to a nation-wide audience by Telenews, according to CORNELIUS RYAN, radio-television director for the Dinner Committee. Also, the proceedings will be tape-recorded by the Mutual Broadcasting System and special arrangements have been made for The Voice of America to broadcast programs to Europe and Asia.

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@ DINNER APPETIZERS @
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This year's OPC dinner will be unlike any other. Instead of honored guests being hustled off the dais at the end of the program, they'll stick around -- for a reception in the Grand Ballroom foyers. Thus all members and guests will have an opportunity to meet speakers and dais guests as well as with colleagues. Won't it be late? No -- thanks to plans to keep speeches and remarks brief and to the point. Bar and waiter service will be available...Credit for the original idea incorporated in the fancy dinner program at your place goes to HENRY GELLERMANN. That it took a real diplomat to design, you'll be able to tell when you see it...

When the organist plays "Liebesfreud" and a number of other familiar melodies, take a look at the dais guest with the shock of gray hair and wide mustache. He's composer Fritz Kreisler, several of whose songs will be played in his honor...Behind the Scenes; This year's Dinner Committee was the most active of any in the Club's memory. Credit for next week's success goes to the Committee's 28 members, of whom more than 19 attended virtually every pre-dinner meeting. A hard-working crew!...EDWARD W. BARRETT is the only Club member who attends the dinner as an honored guest. BARRETT was proposed for membership while he was still editorial director of Newsweek. Then he was named Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, and an invitation shipped to him in his official capacity. A few days later he was elected a member of the Club...

Note on the Awards: Procedure for naming the seven recipients of this year's annual Club Awards was the most democratic in OPC history. A poll of the entire membership for nominees produced the final slate of candidates. Then everybody voted on that slate. Incidentally, JOHN R. WILHELM of McGraw-Hill World News wrote from Mexico City that this was "the first time I have ever been able to vote on Club matters while overseas, or out of the country."

In transatlantic travel the feature story is American Flagships!

• AS EXPERIENCED world travelers you are already familiar with the advantages of transatlantic travel by American Airlines Flagship—comfort, service, speed and frequency of flights. Now American is proud to announce another step forward.

Beginning in mid-August, American will place into service its new Boeing Strato-cruisers. These double-decked luxury liners of the air will initiate an entirely new era in overseas travel. The next time you go, fly American!

AMERICAN AIRLINES



O F F I C I A L

House Committee Meeting.....Clubrooms.....Monday, February 27, 5:30 PM
 Dinner Committee Meeting.....Clubrooms.....Monday, February 27, 5:30 PM

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 : NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS :

ACTIVE:

Juliet Bridgman, free-lance writer. Germany, 1945-1946, for Liberty Magazine.
 Proposed by RALPH H. MAJOR, JR.; seconded by HENRY GELLERMANN

Allen Chellas, Newsweek Magazine. London, Paris, 1943-1945, chief news editor,
 United Nations News Service (OWI); overseas, Holiday Magazine, 1947. Proposed
 by LEO J. MARGOLIN; seconded by H. SUTHERLAND DENLINGER

Rosa Harvan, free-lance photographer. Thirteen countries, 1937-1948, for
Holiday and Collier's. Proposed by LEO J. MARGOLIN; seconded by H. SUTHERLAND
 DENLINGER

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ROLL CALL: Recently returned from information service duty with the Government abroad,
 FRANK R. SHEA is now with Time...For the next few weeks HELEN HIETT WALLER will shepherd
 around New York schools some 25 student delegates (representing 16 countries) assembled for
 the 5th Annual New York Herald Tribune Forum of which MRS. WALLER is director. The forum
 opens in the Waldorf Astoria on March 4...After a swing to London, Paris and other points
 east and west, TURNER CATLEDGE, New York Times assistant m.e., is back at his desk..."Are
 Husbands Outmoded?" was the subject of PATRICIA LOCHRIDGE's speech before the Wellesley Col-
 lege Alumnae Association and Wellesley faculty last week...

IVAN H. (CY) PETERMAN is just back from a 15-day junket with TWA's "Holy
 Year Prevue" tour to Ireland, Paris, Milan, Rome, Madrid, Lisbon, the
 Azores and Newfoundland...CY and 35 other editors, columnist and special
 writers interviewed the Pope, top French and Italian cabinet ministers
 and General Franco. "The daily program," CY states succinctly, "left not
 a dull moment..."

RICHARD MASSOCK has just returned to New York from the AP office in Venezuela...After
 seeing her son and his family off for India, GERALDINE FITCH spent a week with her husband
 at the Buck Hill Falls Inn, Pennsylvania...(Editor's Note: Please restrict your Bulletin
 items to members only -- space dictates we must ignore other friends or staffers on foreign
 assignments, etc.)

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 x WITH THE OPC ON TV x
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"The British Elections -- After", the second in a two-part commentary on England's Parliamentary balloting, will be discussed next Sunday on the OPC's television show. Guests will be JOSEPH B.

PHILLIPS, Newsweek columnist and editor of "As We See Russia"; Major L. Jon Naar, British free-lance journalist and former editor of Labor and Industry in Britain; and Seymour Berkson, general manager of International News Service, who just returned from a survey trip to five Marshall Plan countries, including England. (Channel 2, WCBS-TV, Sunday, February 26, 5-5:30 PM)

ON A FAST VISIT to New York last week was J.B.S. HALPER, who represents the Christian Science Monitor and Coronet magazine in Geneva, Switzerland...Speaking of Coronet, new member FRANC SHOR has an article, "Fifty Plus and Flying High", in its March issue now on the stands...The Boston Post's GRACE DAVIDSON and BOB CONSIDINE of INS are covering the "mercy-killing" trial in Manchester, N.H....The February issue of Bedding, a trade mag, carries a piece by MYER AGEN on a new fire-resistant mattress for people who like to smoke in bed...

AFTER TWO MONTHS IN EUROPE (Spain, France and England), IRENE KUHN is now back in N.Y. While abroad, she did an Xmas eve broadcast from Madrid for WNBC and interviewed General Franco's wife...CECIL BROWN, MBS commentator, has also just returned - from a three-month news hunt to France, England, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Israel, Yugoslavia, Spain and Portugal. Picked up, via battery-operated recording machine, interviews with chiefs of state and men-and-women-in-the-street...

A NEW MOVE for the Wilmington (Dela.) Star into a modernized plant and buildings has been arranged by Publisher STANLEY ROSS...On March 11 SIMON MICHAEL BESSIE of Harper's hops to Europe for business in France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and England...Post-war rehabilitation note: RADER WINGET of the AP has been elected chairman of the Board of Review of Boy Scout Troop 208 in Port Washington, L.I....ROBERT C. DURHAM is co-author with Clayton Knight of "Hitch Your Wagon", the story of explorer-adventurer Bernt Balchen, a new release by Bell...

SINCE LOUIS LOCHNER'S BOOK, "The Goebbels Diaries", was named a Book-of-the-Month Club selection in May, 1948, the volume has run through 11 foreign editions including British, French, Italian, Swiss (German), Dutch, Argentine (Spanish), Brazilian (Portuguese), Norwegian, Danish, Swedish and Greek. An article by LOCHNER, "Rubbing Elbows with the Russians in Berlin", appears in the winter issue of Social Science...The Club extends condolences on the death of Prof. Paul R. Pope, father of ERNIE POPE, who died last month in Ithaca, N.Y....

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RADIO-TELEGRAPH

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RESPONSIBLE FOR RELEASE,
ANGUS WARD TELLS CLUB

The indignant cry raised by the American press over his arrest and detention by Chinese Communists was an important factor in securing final release, Consul General Angus Ward told 85 OPC members and guests at the Savoy Plaza Hotel on February 22. The tall, bearded diplomat, who was prisoner of the Reds for 13 months, also disclosed that "so far as I know, we are the only group tried by Communists who did not break down and confess something we didn't do." This failure to force confessions, Ward said, was the fault of inept Chinese prosecutors who, unlike the Russians, were inexperienced in such tactics. Ward emphasized, however, that his imprisonment and trial was a faux pas on a local level rather than a scheme ordered by high Red authorities. The Ward trial, the consul general said, was conducted without the prisoners' enjoying legal counsel, friends in court, or witnesses. And the only straight-forward question asked was whether Ward admitted to beating a Chinese laborer allegedly fired by him and later attacked by the consul general and his staff. This same laborer testified to having been punched "six times in the right eye"; the prosecution had no rebuttal when Ward pointed out the complete absence of a shiner on the man's face. Ward added that no physical violence is needed to induce a confession; "isolation, coupled with never-ending interrogation and maddening repetition", he said, "is quite enough to break down the strongest man."

WHAT THEY SAY *
ABOUT THE BOOK *

"It would be hard to find a more usable book if you keep up with national and international affairs" -- That's what the Houston Post has to say about the OPC's new book, "Men Who Make Your World" (E.P. Dutton, \$3.50)

...But read on...The Birmingham (Ala.) News declares: "Each of the 25 stories is a masterpiece in itself, although all stories are different in style and presentation -- some written racily and clipped, others with fine, almost aristocratic studiosness."...The Sign says: "Readers should welcome this excellent book...All profiles are extremely interesting 'human interest' portraits. They are also, in most cases, admirable capsule summaries of today's historic events...Every article is written by an expert who has had a firsthand opportunity to evaluate his subject. On the whole, it is the best job of objective reporting that one could hope to find."...And the Chicago Daily News: "This book is a series of word sketches, each chapter written by a high ranking foreign correspondent. It is a gallery of rogues, of saints and sinners."

* * *

BOOK LIST

Books received recently by the Overseas Press Club Library include the following:

"Human Relations in a Changing World" by Alexander H. Leighton, published by E.P. Dutton
"Knee Pants" by Emile C. Schurmacher, published by Thomas Y. Crowell Co.

— RALPH H. MAJOR, JR., Acting Editor

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